

Talking Points for Mayor Thomas M. Menino
Wireless Task Force Formation Announcement
February 8, 2006

- Thank you **Joyce [Plotkin]**. I have known Joyce since she chaired the Statewide Organizing Committee for Net Day. Her leadership led to over 900 schools being wired. I very impressed with the results she achieved and her dedication to technology.
- I'm thrilled to be here with so many people who are committed to using technology to improve our quality of life.
- New technology is constantly changing the way we live, allowing us to do things better, faster, and more efficiently. Perhaps no form of technology is more exciting than WiFi, which offers wireless Internet access that is convenient and affordable.
- We have already witnessed the benefits of WiFi in our 28 public libraries and in some of our Main Streets districts. And we are currently in the process of finalizing plans to provide WiFi access along portions of the Greenway.

- Now we must explore fully exactly how our city could benefit from WiFi and how we might implement this technology in a way that benefits all of our residents and businesses.
- Today I am proud to announce the creation of the Mayor's Wireless Task Force. It will be made up of representatives from the business, academic and wireless communities. The task force will be co-chaired by **Joyce Plotkin**, President of the Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council, **Jim Cash**, a former Harvard Business School professor who serves on the boards of Microsoft and General Electric, and **Rick Burnes**, co-founder and partner at Charles River Ventures and chairman of the Museum of Science board.
- The Task Force will explore how we can utilize our assets to create an innovative wireless system that works for Boston.
- They will deliver a report to me by mid-summer.
- Others are working in pursuit of this shared goal. Next week, The Boston Foundation will release its report on wireless Internet access in

Boston. I look forward to hearing their suggestions. That's how I see this process moving forward: a public- private partnership working together to explore these exciting possibilities.

- Technology should be the great equalizer – a community resource that gives everyone the opportunity to enhance their lives. By working together and staying focused, I am confident we can reach that goal.

Thank you and have a great morning.